

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Wetting vessel for a paint brush, in particular of the type comprising a transverse application spatula made of absorbent material, comprising an element made of absorbent material (8) intended to be saturated in its lower part with wetting liquid, characterized in that it comprises means for decantation (80) of the pigments contained if appropriate in said wetting liquid.

2. (original) Wetting vessel according to claim 2, characterized in that the decantation means comprise studs (80) arranged, in a projecting fashion, in the base of the vessel and on which rests said element (8) made of absorbent material.

3. (currently amended) Wetting vessel according to claim 1 [[or 2]], characterized in that the wetting element (8) is made of an absorbent and filtering material.

4. (currently amended) Wetting vessel according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized by means for drying the paint brush comprising an element made of absorbent material (9) arranged in a housing (79, 85) forming a sieve above a liquid reception vessel.

5. (original) Wetting vessel according to claim 4, characterized by means for connecting the reception vessel to the wetting liquid vessel of the wetting means.

6. (original) Wetting vessel according to claim 5, characterized by a single wetting/drying vessel (6) with in its base a part equipped with decantation studs (80) and a lid for a

vessel (7) divided into an open compartment (78) above said studs and a compartment (79, 85) in the form of a sieve.

7. (original) Wetting vessel according to claim 6, characterized in that the open compartment of the lid (7) beside the decantation studs (80) comprises an inner skirt (78) defining a housing for the absorbent material (8), the lower end of said skirt being flush with the level of said studs.

8. (currently amended) Paint box comprising a wetting vessel according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 and a series of paint blocks (4) arranged side by side so as to provide, in a projecting fashion, each side by side a paint surface comprising a common take-up surface for a paint brush (4d).

9. (original) Paint box according to claim 8, characterized by two lateral stops (61, 62) flanking said series of paint blocks so as to define a paint take-up channel for said paint brush.

10. (currently amended) Paint box according to claim 8 <sup>i</sup>[[or 9]], characterized in that the paint blocks (4) are interchangeable so as to define a take-up channel which can be composed of a different series of colours.

11. (original) Paint box according to claim 10, characterized in that each paint block (4) is mounted on a support (10,10') comprising fastening means (22; 100, 101) which are able to cooperate with complementary fastening means (30) arranged in said box, all of the supports and fastening means being identical so as to allow interchangeability of said paint blocks.

12. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~claims 10 or 11~~ claim 10, characterized in that one of the stops (62) is interchangeable with one of the paint blocks (4) so as to define a smaller take-up channel, said stop being mounted on a support (10) comprising fastening means similar to the fastening means of

the paint blocks so as to allow interchangeability between said stop and any one of the paint blocks.

13. (currently amended) Paint box according to claim 11 [[or 12]], characterized in that the fastening means (22, 30) are of the groove/slide type.

14. (currently amended) Paint box according to claim 11 [[or 12]], characterized in that the fastening means (100, 101) are of the locking type.

15. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, characterized in that the support (10) comprises:

- an extended base plate (23) equipped with means for holding (17-19; 12) the paint block (4) or the detachable lateral stop (62);
- a gripping tab (40, 40') arranged at one of the ends of said base plate (23); and
- the fastening means (22; 100, 101) with the paint box projecting under said base plate.

16. (original) Paint box according to claim 15, characterized in that the fastening means comprise a groove (22) the two opposite lateral surfaces of which, at the gripping tab end (40), widen into an arc so as to form a stop (36) with rounded walls.

17. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of claims 11 to 16~~ claim 11, characterized in that the complementary fastening means arranged in said box comprise a slide (30) having an introductory portion (32), a portion with parallel lateral walls, a portion with lateral walls widened into an arc forming a seat (33) for the stop (36) and a base portion (34) with parallel lateral walls adjusted to the width of the groove (22).

18. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of claims 8 to 17~~ claim 8, characterized in that it comprises a set of paint brushes, each paint brush comprising an application

spatula (50) covered with an absorbent material intended to take up paint and having approximately the width of a take-up channel.

19. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of claims 8 to 18~~ claim 8, characterized in that it comprises an additional paint brush with an application spatula which is able to take up paint from a single paint block.

20. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of claims 8 to 19~~ claim 8, characterized by a plate (1) produced all in one block by moulding, comprising close to a front edge (2) an area (5) intended for the paint blocks (14), said paint take-up channel extending approximately perpendicular to said front edge, the wetting vessel (16) being situated behind said paint area opposite said front edge.

21. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 20~~ claim 8, characterized by a paint brush made of two parts (50; 51, 52), a first part forming an application spatula (50) in particular made of absorbent material one of the extended edges of which (58) serves to take up paint and a second part (51, 52) constituted by the handle of the paint brush (51) having at one of its ends a fastener (52) with a continuous U-shaped section, extending in the plane of the handle and transversally, intended to firmly grip the edge of said spatula (50) opposite the paint take-up edge (58).

22. (original) Paint box according to claim 21, characterized in that the two parts (50; 51, 52) can be separated.

23. (currently amended) Paint box according to claim 21 [[or 22]], characterized in that the first part (50) forming the application spatula is constituted by a core made of rigid material (53) surrounded by a strip of absorbent material with a U-shaped section, the edge corresponding to the bend constituting the paint take-up edge (58).

24. (original) Paint box according to claim 23, characterized in that the core (53) has, on the side opposite said take-up edge (58) a back edge (57) which is thicker,

intended to be inserted laterally into the element of a U-section, this latter having a base with a shape which complements said thicker edge so that the applicator part (50) cannot be released along the axis of the handle.

25. (currently amended) Paint box according to ~~one of~~  
~~claims 21 to 24~~ claim 21, characterized in that the fastener is  
of the clamp type.